

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners,

As a citizen who wants to be informed about the political and electoral issues that affect my life, I am greatly disappointed by the lack of informative television programming.

I already know most of the negatives about both candidates--or at least enough of it.

I want to know their strategies for the future--unless of course they have none. Specifically, if President Bush can only talk using the half-truths that he has been using, why would anyone want to vote for him? And he got elected? It's enough to want to chuck the whole system and move away so you don't have to even listen to them.

I think that Senator Kerry has explained himself much clearer and has at least expressed some plans for the future.

Mr. Powell, won't you do something to assist the Broadcasters meet their obligations by providing coverage of the issues, not just negative ads. They are beginning to look and sound like dummies and empty headed stooges (for who knows what!).

I always thought they were intelligent and principled news men and women.

Again, please require them to fulfill their obligations.

that is failing to do it's job.

Local public affairs programming is virtually non-existent--constituting less than one half of 1% of all local programming. More than half of news broadcasts prior to the 2002 elections did not include a single campaign story. Our democracy is at risk when many Americans don't know basic facts about the candidates or the issues, as was the case in the 2000 elections.

Since broadcasters have clearly failed in their obligation to serve the public interest, the FCC should define meaningful public interest requirements that include local civic and electoral affairs programming. At a minimum, broadcasters should air three hours per week of local civic and electoral affairs programming, with at least two hours devoted to substantive election coverage in the six weeks prior to Election Day.

As the elections approach, a well-functioning democracy demands that citizens have access to a diversity of opinions and voices on the choices confronting us.

Sincerely,

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